



"Jump at de Sun" St. Lucie!

Mama exhorted her children at every opportunity to "jump at de sun." We might not land on the sun, but at least we would get off the ground. -Zora Neale Hurston

If you missed all of the activities of Zora Fest, you missed a treat! The citizens of our county came together to celebrate the life of Fort Pierce's most famous *Loquacious and Bodacious* resident, Zora Neale Hurston. I commend the efforts of those behind the scenes, particularly the Zora Fest Committee and the Cultural Affairs Council for their hard work. Well done!

Our county "jumps at de sun" each day with new thinking, collaborative efforts and a steely determination to move from good to great. Of course, we have work to do. For example, in the last few weeks I've attended meetings regarding gang violence, the potential for a broader personal health and wellness curriculum within our public schools, and revitalization efforts along the Avenue "D" corridor through efforts of organizations like Lincoln Park Mainstreet. In each example we have to jump toward the issue. No longer can we remain silent, even when it is more comfortable to do so.

Together, our community must decide if we want to control and eliminate gangs or if we want gangs to control and eliminate our quality and way of life. We must debate if it is appropriate for young adults to receive information that, if used, may help save their lives and reduce HIV/AIDS infection rates here at home. We must decide if we want to allow slum and blight to remain as eyesores or redouble our efforts through code compliance, community watch and homeowners' associations to eliminate it. Plainly, we must "jump at de sun" to tell others about the St. Lucie County of which we wish to be part. And that is the St. Lucie County we aspire to share with the world as the hub of the Research Coast.

Each time we jump, our muscles become stronger and we jump higher. Ms. Hurston's mother was right, *We might not land on the sun, but at least we would get off the ground.*

Have a great summer! Stay safe and keep jumping!



Author **Zora Neale Hurston**—for more info, see page 2.



Spotlight on: Paradise Park Paving

In St. Lucie County, there are about 150 miles of unpaved roads. Paradise Park is one neighborhood where residents have dealt with dust and mud for decades. Now, some homeowners there are living dust and mud free for the first time, thanks to a recent paving project.

In January, St. Lucie County Road and Bridge crews laid asphalt along Rosarita, Barcelona, San Diego and Valencia Avenues between MLK/25th and 23rd Streets. The million dollar project began in late 2005 when workers installed drainage in the neighborhood, which is the first step for any paving project. The rest of the subdivision is or will soon be undergoing drainage work so that paving may be completed.

Residents in Harmony Heights will soon be seeing similar sights on their streets. Crews will be moving into that neighborhood next.



St. Lucie County Road and Bridge crews lay asphalt in Paradise Park.



Cash for the Courthouse

In February, St. Lucie County Commissioners took a trip to Washington D.C. to talk money with federal legislators. The trip turned out to be very worth their while...

City and County leaders have been trying for years to get funding for a federal courthouse in St. Lucie County. Their efforts have finally paid off—in the form of a \$53.8 million commitment from Congress for construction of a federal courthouse near downtown Ft. Pierce. The new facility will be located on the southwest corner of Orange Avenue and U.S. Highway 1.

That isn't the only federal funding that was secured. \$5.5 million is slated to be set aside for work on the Special Needs Shelter, which will be constructed near Lawnwood Stadium. And \$250,000 will be spent on renovating the Old Courthouse on South Indian River Drive.



Zapping Trash

St. Lucie County's only hill—the landfill—is on the road to extinction, thanks to a new concept in trash disposal. The Board of County Commissioners entered into a contract with Geoplasma in early April. The company plans to build a plasma arc gasification plant at the landfill. This new technology utilizes extremely high heat created by plasma torches to melt solid waste into a synthetic gas and slag byproduct, which creates energy. The facility will be built in phases, and will eventually be able to melt 3,000 tons of trash per day. At that rate, "Mount Trashmore" could be history in a matter of years.

Fun in the St. Lucie Sun



Summer break is close—how will your children be spending their summer months? Check out the St. Lucie County Parks and Recreation programs that are available for students:



SUMMER CAMPS:

- *Mon—Fri 7:30a—5:30p
- *10 week session 5/29—8/3
- *\$45 per child per week (does not include field trips or snacks)

5-11 Years:

- *Lincoln Park Comm. Center
462-1788
- *Westwood HS
462-1521
- *Ft. Pierce Central HS
462-1792

12-15 Years:

- *Maravilla Rec. Center
462-1792
- *Frances K. Sweet Elem. School
462-1788



Construction Update!

If you haven't been to downtown Ft. Pierce lately, you might not even recognize the corner of Indian River Drive and Atlantic Avenue. Over the past 18 months, construction crews have transformed the once vacant lot into a four story masterpiece. The new \$12.5 million Clerk of the Courts building is nearing completion, and will soon be home to 54,000 square feet of office space and about 3,000 square feet of retail/restaurant space.



The Zealous Ms. Zora



She was the most prolific and accomplished black woman writer in America in the 1930's, 40's and 50's. Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God* has been called a classic of black literature. The talented and dynamic author has roots in St. Lucie County—spending her final years working as a reporter for the *Ft. Pierce Chronicle* and as a substitute teacher at Lincoln Park Academy. Hurston passed away in 1960 and is buried in Fort Pierce.

Every year, locals pay tribute to Hurston through a celebration called "Zora Fest." This year's festival included a live stage performance of the play Loquacious and Bodacious, as well as a dance performance at the Sunrise Theatre. Participants also enjoyed bus tours to Zora's home and gravesite, as well as book reviews and children's activities. For more information on Zora Neale Hurston, you can visit: www.zorafest.com



Meeting Schedules

County Commission:

6p - 1st/3rd Tues of every month
9a - 2nd/4th Tues of every month
Administration Bldg.
3rd Floor
2300 Virginia Ave
(Comcast Cable Channel 21)

Ft. Pierce City Commission:

7p - 1st/3rd Mon of every month
City Hall
100 North US 1
(Comcast Cable Channel 27)

School Board:

6p - 2nd/4th Tues of every month
School Board Office
4204 Okeechobee Rd.

Lincoln Park Business Assoc.:

7p - 2nd Wed of every month
Willie B. Ellis Police Substation
1220 Avenue D

H2O Restrictions



Homeowners are being asked to conserve water—here's what you need to know about water restrictions in unincorporated St. Lucie County:

*If you live on **less than five acres** and your address ends in an **odd** number, you should water only on *Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays between 4a—8a.*

***Even** numbered addresses should water during those times on *Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.*

Residents caught violating the restrictions could face up to a \$500 fine. For more information on water restrictions, visit www.sfwmd.gov or call (800) 250-4100.

Important Numbers

Commissioner Joe Smith

(772) 462-1410

carins@stlucieco.gov

Ft. Pierce City Hall

(772) 460-2200

Port St. Lucie City Hall

(772) 871-5159

SLC School Board Office

(772) 429-3600

State Representative

Richard Machek

(772) 595-1391

State Senator

Ken Pruitt

(772) 344-1140

Governor Charlie Crist

(850) 488-7146

US Representative

Alcee Hastings

(202) 225-1313

US Senator

Bill Nelson

(202) 224-5274

US Senator

Mel Martinez

(202) 224-3041

The White House

(202) 456-1414

Questions or comments about our newsletter?

Do you have an issue you'd like for us to discuss in the next newsletter?

Maybe an event you would like announced to the community?

Call or email Carin: 462-1410
carins@stlucieco.gov